



Illinois Crime Victim Services Division News

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Office of the Illinois Attorney General

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Welcome to the first edition of the Illinois Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division e-newsletter. In this monthly publication you will find information about our programs and upcoming events. If you have any questions about our services, you can call our toll free number, 800 - 228-3368.

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Summer Means Exciting Changes for VCVA

When you think of summer, you probably think of long days at the beach, backyard cookouts, and well deserved vacations. But for members of the Violent Crime Victim Assistance (VCVA) staff, summer means ending one fiscal year and beginning a new one. As you know, July 1st is the start of FY07. At this time, the Director of VCVA and the grant monitors take time, not only to re-connect with previous grantees, but also to orientate newly funded programs on the process and responsibilities of receiving funding.

During FY07, VCVA will experience some exciting changes. First, we will be moving toward a paperless system with new forms. This system will give grantees the ability to email their reports and correspondence directly to their respective grant monitors. Also, we will be holding grantee meetings, where programs will have the opportunity to communicate their concerns and their needs while receiving pertinent information from CVSD staff. Along with implementing these new initiatives, we are also very pleased to be welcoming several new partners. For FY07, VCVA has awarded more than \$7,500,000.00 in grants. Newly funded programs include: **Association for Individual Development (AID), Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., CASA of Saline County, Pioneer Center of McHenry County, Rantoul Police Department and White County State's Attorney's Office.**

So, if you're looking for summer reading, feel free to contact any of the VCVA staff (800-228-3368) for information about specific programs or check out the OAG website (<http://www.ag.state.il.us/communities/iap/vcva.html>) for the entire list of currently funded programs.

SANE Updates for 2006

June 30th marked the completion of the first year of the Illinois Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (Illinois SANE). IL SANE developed a SANE fact sheet, completed a hospital survey, finalized the Illinois SANE Curriculum and completed three regional 40-hour trainings. At this time, the program is developing a listserve to increase communication about SANE Nursing and the challenges of working in the field.

The Office of Attorney General Lisa Madigan has educated 134 professionals during the regional SANE trainings, including:

Registered Nurses: 105
Sexual Assault Advocates: 13
Law Enforcement Officers: 7
Nurse Practitioners: 6
Physician Assistants: 1
Prosecutors: 1
Physicians: 1

We gained much knowledge about Illinois hospitals from our hospital survey. To date, we have 5 hospitals in Illinois that provide SANE coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, there are 44 hospitals that have SANEs practicing in the emergency departments.

Tips for Hospital Workers

In addition to the emotional and physical costs of crime, the victim is forced to deal with the actual financial cost of crime. Costs include medical bills, time off work, prescriptions and other aid such as crutches and wheelchairs, crime scene clean-up, and counseling. Too often, the monetary cost of a crime exceeds the victim's available funds. This is where Crime Victim Compensation comes into play. When the crime victim has exhausted all insurance, public aid, charity care, and all other possible forms of payment, Crime Victim Compensation will step in to cover the costs. As a hospital worker helping a crime victim fill out an application, it is important to keep the following tips in mind:

* **You are not required to evaluate victim eligibility.**

The compensation staff will spend the time sorting out who began the fight, who escalated the fight and who was an innocent bystander. All you need to do is have each person who is a crime victim fill out the application; the compensation staff will then determine eligibility.

* **Include as much information from the police report as possible.**

If you have the police report number always include it on the application. If you do not have the police report number, please fill in as much as possible about the incident, especially the date and the police department that wrote the report.

* **List the providers and phone numbers.**

The victims can then send the bills later and crime victim compensation staff will then follow-up with the billing department. While details on each medical provider are helpful, we know that the victim has probably not seen many of the providers that will help them through their injuries.

* **The victim must sign the application.**

While hospital staff may help a victim with the application by describing the sections and helping them to fill it out, only the crime victim, or their legal guardian, may sign the application. Signing a CVC Application on behalf of a victim is not allowed under the law and could be subject to criminal prosecution.

Programs administered by the Crime Victim Services Division include:

The Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVC)

The Violent Crime Victim Assistance (VCVA)

The Illinois Automated Victim Notification System (IL AVN)

The Statewide Victim Assistance Program

The Illinois Victim Assistance Academy (IVAA)

The Illinois Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (IL SANE)

SANE

For information on upcoming SANE training sessions, please contact Julie Garner-Teno at:

**217-557-8135, or
jgarnerteno@atg.state.il.us**

VCVA

The FY07 VCVA Special Projects application is now available online at :

www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/vcva.html

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Scholz at

**217-223-2221, or
escholz@atg.state.il.us.**